

TOGETHER FIRST

A GLOBAL SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR ALL

Consultation guidance note

In order to facilitate submissions to the Together First consultation process, we have provided some guidance/ Please read this document before filling in your submission form.

Introduction: things to consider

Purpose of the consultation

This consultation is a pragmatic exercise which aims to develop and support feasible changes that can be made to our global system to improve our ability to prevent, mitigate and manage the risks of global catastrophes. We also look to create an anticipatory, responsive and resilient multilateral system multilateral system of global governance institutions able and willing to act promptly and effectively.

Our focus is not so much on the ideas themselves, important as they are, but on the mechanisms by which they can be made a reality. To that end the questions primarily concentrate on the implementation strategy and campaign plan for the ideas rather than the ideas themselves.

Furthermore, the ideas do not need to be new, indeed we firmly believe that there are many incredibly strong reform proposals already in existence, and we would strongly welcome consultees proposing an implementation plan for a pre-existing idea, as opposed to a brand new mechanism.

Initially, we will focus on influencing the various intergovernmental processes taking place in 2020, notably the UN's 75th anniversary commemoration, but also the UN Climate Change Conference (COP2020), nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) negotiations and others.

A brief timeline of the process

Governments have decided to mark the UN's 27th anniversary with a leaders' summit in September 2020, and a declaration on "The Future We Want, the United Nations We Need". First will solicit and then further develop proposals that can be fed into the processes corresponding to the 75th anniversary, which provides a crucial opportunity to take stock of our current global system – and demand action to improve it. At the same time we are building, and will continue to build, a powerful campaigning and advocacy coalition to push these ideas forwards.

The first of these consultations will run until **10 January 2020** – the 74th anniversary of the first ever meeting of the UN General Assembly.

An online plenary will then be held in **mid-January** to allow consultees a chance to talk to each other, and to our advisors and focus group members. This will allow for the further development of ideas, for the potential merger of similar or equivalent ideas, and for a sense of which ideas have critical will behind them to emerge. The online plenary will be followed by a survey which will allow

Together First organisational members and individuals and organisations who contributed to the consultation to endorse any number of the ideas presented thus far: creating a mapping of support behind the various proposals. We will release an interim report with highlights from the process thus far at this point.

In **February 2020** all the ideas received in the consultation that are compatible with Together First's [values](#), will be published in our new online portal: a sortable searchable database of global governance solutions which will act as the launchpad for campaigns on these subjects throughout 2020.

February-May 2020 will see a number of discussions, roundtables, townhalls and online and offline interactions at which these ideas can be championed. These discussions will feed in to important UN processes including the “global conversation” that the UN will be hosting and the draft of the civil society declaration for the 75th anniversary of the UN. These discussions will also be used to gauge which proposals have traction among campaigners, stakeholders and the wider population.

In **May 2020** Together First will launch our “global to do list”, this will comprise a series of proposals informed by and drawn from the consultation process, particularly those around which there was excitement in the discussions and where the mapping showed significant support. Our [Focus Group](#) will help us in the selection of these ideas.

From May 2020 onwards Together First will be campaigning on behalf of the ideas in our global to-do list, while also encouraging partners, consultees and others to campaign upon their own ideas. We will present these proposals as part of the UN's “global conversation” in **June 2020**, and lobby throughout the summer to have them included in the communique for the World Summit in **September 2020**. In the autumn of 2020 we will take stock of the impact of these campaigns, and determine which of these campaigns to continue, which to launch as stand-alone initiatives, and which have been successfully concluded. The process will terminate on **January 10 2021**, the 75th anniversary of the first ever meeting of the UN General Assembly.

What we're looking for

Together First is interested in suggested improvements to the way in which global problems are managed (global governance). These suggestions will demonstrate their worth by having the effect of improving our ability to mitigate and prevent to potential global catastrophes (global catastrophic risk). While the ideas themselves are important, the primary focus of our work is to develop and support a clear implementation strategy for viable suggestions, and – particularly in the initial phase – will prioritise ideas that have already generated considerable political will and could be implemented relatively quickly.

Together First ask participants to submit their proposals for reforming our global system by filling in a short online form. Ensuring a common format will guarantee there is a seamless integration between all elements of our consultation, our online web portal and our campaigns.

Together First is open to receiving untested new ideas for reforming our global system. However, this is not the primary purpose of the consultation. There have been many such exercises including, recently, the Global Challenges Foundation's “New Shape” process, and we want to avoid reinventing the wheel. We therefore encourage participants to look to the background information we have provided, and to the wider history of global governance reform, and to consider what preexisting ideas could be made viable, and to make a submission which proposes a path to implementation for that idea.

Please take some time to familiarise yourself with the other background documents for this consultation

- Together First's [Statement of Values](#)
- "[How to save the world](#)" – a report commissioned by Together First on barriers to effective reform
- Our non-exhaustive [online reference list](#) of previous reform recommendations
- If you are looking for other pre-existing suggestions global governance reform have a look at the Global Challenges Foundation's "[New Shape library](#)" of global governance reforms

The consultation process

Please make your submission by filling in [our form](#). You can either do this anonymously or give your name and organisational affiliation. If you do the latter then you and your organisation will be credited as the authors of the submission.

About you

This is where we ask for your contact information. When entering your name please indicate if you DO NOT wish to be credited as an author. Your submission will then be treated anonymously. Otherwise you will be credited as an author of the submission and you will be kept up to date with Together First campaigning actions and informed when your submission is published.

When entering your organisational affiliation please indicate if you are making a submission on behalf of that organisation or if you are making this submission in a personal capacity.

About your proposal

Please briefly describe your proposal with a punchy title and a tweet-length description. You will be given the opportunity to discuss it in greater detail later in the process.

Categorising your proposal

Please tick the boxes below to explain which risks and risk multipliers your proposal seeks to address, and in what timeframe you feel your proposal can be implemented.

These answers will help us to categorise your proposal and will enhance the navigation of the proposal database we will subsequently build. It also helps us to tailor subsequent questions to your proposal.

Please give particular regard to which timeframe you feel your proposal can be implemented within. In this first consultation we are particularly interested in proposals that can be implemented in the short term (defined as between 2020 and 2025), and could form part of an advocacy push around the UN75 summit. However, to be viable in the short term ideas must already have a significant degree of political will.

Medium term proposals are proposals which require the motivation of a greater degree of political will but build upon or provide innovative solutions in support of (or at least not in conflict with) existing road maps for the next ten years such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Long term proposals are proposals which require a change in underlying political conditions or which do not form part of pre-existing road maps. These proposals still have considerable value, but need to articulate what needs to change in the wider international context which would provide them with an eventual path to viability.

Your theory of change

These questions allow you to explain how your proposal is viable and what would be required to turn it into a reality. You are asked to outline your implementation strategy, and then – depending upon the timeframe of your proposal – you will be asked slightly different questions to determine how close to acceptance your idea is and what would be required to bring it to the point of adoption

Mitigating global catastrophic risks

Here we ask you how your proposal will help create a more resilient global system which is better able to mitigate or manage the risk of species threatening catastrophes, as well as creating a resilient, capable and ‘on alert’ multilateral system of global governance institutions able and willing to act promptly and effectively.

You will be asked how each of the risks you indicated earlier in the process will be mitigated by your proposal.

Wider implications of your proposal

Any global governance proposal will have wider implications for our global system. We are particularly interested in what those implications will be with respect to “risk multipliers” – the dynamics that we feel particularly limit our global system’s ability to manage global catastrophic risks.

The answers you gave earlier in the process will alter the precise questions you are asked, but the purpose is the same – to determine if there are implications of your proposal for a specific multiplier, and if those implications are positive or negative.

Your proposal in detail

Here you have free space to further describe your proposal in detail and tell us anything more about it, or you, that you have not yet had the chance to mention. You can also link to further resources, additional information, related groups, other articles or publications you have written on the topic, or anything else you feel is relevant.